Serial No. 09/878,336

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as shown below with added text indicated with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with <u>strikethrough</u>.

A switching device for controlling a connection between a private computer, a shared computer, and a terminal_includesing: a connecting unit that connects each terminal to a corresponding private computer in a default status, and switches a connection destination of the terminal to a private computer corresponding to the terminal or the shared computer when a connection switching request transmitted from the terminal has been received; and a security unit that executes for each terminal_identification processing on the data that has been received from any one terminal and output to the at least one private computer or the shared computer.